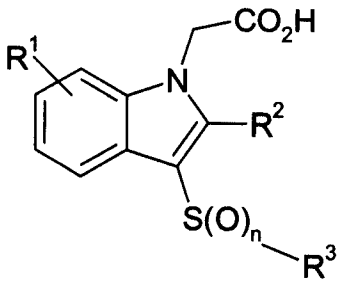
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:




(I)

in which:

n represents 1 or 2;

$R^1$ is one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, $SO_2R^4$, $OR^4$, $SR^4$, $SOR^4$, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, $NR^5R^6$, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, $NR^9COR^4$, aryl, ~~heteroaryl,~~ $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl or $C_{1-6}$alkyl, the latter five groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, $OR^7$ and $NR^8R^9$, $NR^8R^9$, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^2$ is hydrogen, halogen, CN, $SO_2R^4$ or $CONR^5R^6$, $COR^4$ or $C_{1-7}$alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, $OR^8$ and $NR^5R^6$, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0,1 or 2;

$R^3$ is aryl or a 5-6[[7]] membered aromatic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from N, S and O, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, CN, nitro, $SO_2R^4$, OH, $OR^4$, $SR^4$, $SOR^4$, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, $NR^5R^6$, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, $NR^9CO_2R^4$, $NR^9COR^4$, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkynyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, $OR^7$ and $NR^8R^9$, $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0,1 or 2;

$R^4$ represents aryl, heteroaryl, or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, $OR^{10}$ and $NR^{11}R^{12}$ $S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where x = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$,$SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

$R^5$ and $R^6$ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, or an aryl group~~, or a heteroaryl~~, the latter ~~three~~ two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, $OR^{13}$ and $NR^{14}R^{15}$, $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$,$SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;
or
$R^5$ and $R^6$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8 membered saturated heterocylic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, $S(O)_x$ where x is 0, 1 or 2, $NR^{16}$, and the ring itself optionally substituted by $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl;

$R^7$ and $R^{13}$ independently represent a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, or an aryl or ~~heteroaryl~~ group all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

$R^8$ represents a hydrogen atom, $C(O)R^9$, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen atoms, or an aryl ~~or heteraryl~~ group[[s]], ~~both of~~ which may also be optionally substituted by one or more fluorine atoms); an aryl or a heteroaryl group, which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

each of $R^9$, $R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{12}$, $R^{14}$, $R^{15}$, independently represents a hydrogen atom, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, or an aryl ~~or a heteroaryl~~ group (all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms); and

$R^{16}$ is hydrogen, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, -C(O)$C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl, C(O)Y$C_1$-$C_4$alkyl, Y is O or $NR^7$.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 in which n is 2.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which $R^1$ is halogen, nitrile, $C_{1-6}$alkyl or $SO_2R^4$, $NO_2$, $NR^9COR^4$, $NR^9SO_2R^4$, aryl, $NR^5R^6$.

4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 in which the $R^1$ substituent(s) is/are in the 4- and/or 5- position.

5. (Previously presented) A compound according claim 1 in which $R^2$ is $C_{1-6}$alkyl.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 in which $R^3$ is phenyl substituted by halogen.

7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(3-Chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-Dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2-ethylphenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid

3-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

3-[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-5-fluoro-2-methyl- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

5-fluoro-2-methyl-3-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl]- 1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

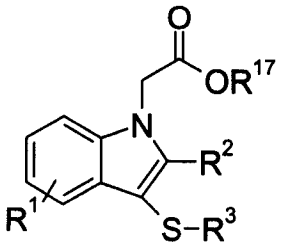
8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of treating ~~according to claim 9 where the disease is~~ asthma or rhinitis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claim 1.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 1 which comprises ~~reaction of a compound of formula (II)~~:

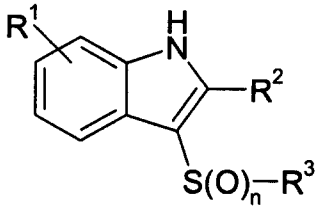
(a) oxidation of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which $R^{17}$ is hydrogen or alkyl and $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are as defined in claim 1 or are protected derivatives thereof, or

(b) reaction of a compound of formula (III):



(III)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are as defined in claim 1 or are protected derivatives thereof, with a compound of formula (IV):

$$R^{18}\text{-}O(CO)CH_2\text{-}L \quad (IV)$$

where $R^{18}$ is an alkyl group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter (a) or (b) in any order:

- hydrolysing the ester group $R^{17}$ or $R^{18}$ to the corresponding acid
- removing any protecting group
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.